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P. Jenner

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
Takaharu KAWAHARA et al. : GROUP ART UNIT: 1713
SERIAL NO.: 09/892,543 :
FILED: JUNE 28, 2001 : EXAMINER: REDDICK, MARIE L.
FOR: METHOD OF PRODUCING ETHYLENE-VINYL ACETATE
COPOLYMER AND SAPONIFIED PRODUCT THEREOF

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated September 17, 2002, the period for response having been extended to February 17, 2003, by a Request for Extension of Time filed herewith, please reconsider the application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows.

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1. (Amended) A method for producing an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, comprising:
- copolymerizing ethylene and vinyl acetate in an alcohol-based solvent, so as to form a solution containing said ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer; and
- recovering unreacted vinyl acetate from said solution after copolymerizing;
- wherein said solution is introduced into a recovery column through an upper portion thereof, a vapor of an alcohol-based solvent is introduced into said recovery column through a lower portion thereof, a solution comprising ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer is taken out of

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